

Message Text

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42

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2096

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TO CONTROL PARTIES

REF: LISBON 1422

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL GIVEN POWER TO SUSPEND PARTIES WHICH USE VIOLENT METHODS OR THOSE PROGRAM IS NOT IN ACCORD WITH AFM PROGRAM END SUMMARY.

1. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS ASSUMED POWERS WHICH WERE TO BE GRANTED TO THE NOW EXTINGUISHED NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA BY CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 4/75 OF MARCH 6. LAW 4/75 STATES THAT NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA IS GIVEN ALL "NECESSARY POWERS" TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS OCCURS IN AN ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM VIOLENCE. THESE POWERS LAST ONLY UNTIL ELECTION DAY.

2. SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AMONG THOSE POWERS IS THE RIGHT TO "SUSPEND THE ACTIVITIES OF PARTIES OR ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE PROGRAMS CONTRAVENE THE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, OR WHOSE BEHAVIOR IS CHARACTERIZED BY INCITEMENT TO OR USE OF VIOLENCE, OR WHICH UPSET ARMED FORCES RPT ARMED FORCES DISCIPLINE."

3. COMMENT: THIS NEW LAW IS IMPORTANT IN THAT IT GIVES THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL THE NECESSARY "LEGAL" TOOLS TO REMOVE FROM THE ELECTION THOSE PARTIES WHICH IT WISHES TO ELIMINATE. LAW IS BROAD ENOUGH TO ENCOMPASS BOTH THE CDS AND THE PDC ON THE RIGHT (WHOSE PROGRAMS THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MAY NOT APPROVE OF) AND THE MAOIST MRPP AND OTHERS ON THE FAR LEFT, WHOSE ESCALATING USE OF VIOLENCE THE AFM CONDEMNS.

4. MRPPS LEADER ARNALDO MATOS STATES AT MARCH 13 LISBON RALLY TO PRESENT CANDIDATES THAT ATTEMPT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE IT ILLEGAL WOULD CAUSE "A DIFFICULT SITUATION." JUDGING FROM HIS STATEMENT, THE PARTY SUSPECTS THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MAY USE THE NEW LAW AGAINST IT.

5. MANY OF THE FAR LEFTIST PARTIES HAVE STATED THAT THEY DO NOT PRETEND TO BE ELECTORAL PARTIES BUT RATHER TO USE THE ELECTIONS TO DISRUPT THE "SYSTEM". EVEN IF PREVENTED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTIONS THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO USE VIOLENCE AGAINST EACH OTHER AND THE MODERATE FORCES. THEREFORE THE EFFICACY OF THIS NEW LAW AS A TOOL TO PREVENT THEM FROM VIOLENCE IS DUBIOUS. BUT IT COULD SERVE TO REMOVE MODERATE-CONSERVATIVE PARTIES FROM THE ELECTIONS, UNDER THE GUISE OF AN EVEN-HANDED POLICY SUPPOSEDLY DIRECTED AGAINST EXTREMISTS IN GENERAL.
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